AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all previous claims, and listings of claims, in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A bearing seat of a ball joint provided in a socket with an opening, ~~comprising~~ with a spherical sliding surface that rotatably holds an approximately globular ball portion of a ball stud arranged in the socket and has a latitudinal direction and a longitudinal direction and an opening communicating with the opening in the socket, ~~further~~ comprising:

a plurality of housing concave portions that are ~~respectively opened~~ along first and second adjacent longitudinal direction positions on the sliding surface in a manner opposed to an outer circumferential surface of the ball portion for housing a lubricant; wherein

~~the concave portions of the first and second adjacent longitudinal direction positions have opened areas which are different from each other~~

the housing concave portions comprise:

a plurality of first dimples respectively arranged apart from each other so as to form at least one tier along tier along the latitudinal direction, opened in approximately circular forms, and having opening areas approximately equal to each other; and

a plurality of second dimples including a plurality of dimples respectively arranged apart from each other along the latitudinal direction at positions of a side opposite the opening with respect to the at least one tier of the first dimples, opened in approximately circular forms, and

having opening areas approximately equal to each other and a plurality of dimples respectively arranged apart from each other along the latitudinal direction at positions of a side of the opening with respect to the tier of the first dimples, opened in approximately circular forms, and having opening areas larger than those of the first dimples and approximately equal to each other.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The bearing seat of a ball joint as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

of the first dimples and the second dimples, ~~the housing concave portions are respectively opened on the sliding surface so that~~ mutually adjacent ones are different in a latitudinal direction position and a longitudinal direction position from each other.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The bearing seat of a ball joint as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

for the housing concave portions ~~form lines along a predetermined direction, and respective opening areas of the mutually adjacent lines along a predetermined direction are different from each other~~, the first dimples are arranged so as to form a line apart from each other along the longitudinal direction, and

wherein the second dimples respectively having opening areas different from those of the first dimples and are arranged apart from each other so as to form a line along the longitudinal direction at positions adjacent in the latitudinal direction to the first dimples.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A bearing seat of a ball joint provided in a socket with an opening, ~~comprising~~ with a ball stud, a spherical sliding surface adapted to rotatably hold an approximately globular ball portion of [[a]] the ball stud to be arranged in this socket and an opening communicating with the opening in the socket ~~further~~ comprising:

a plurality of housing concave portions ~~having opened areas~~ that are on the sliding surface in a manner opposed to an outer circumferential surface of the ball portion, ~~said concave portions are respectively provided so as to form first and second lines along the longitudinal direction at one side of an equator and form tiers along the latitudinal direction wherein the first line is closer to the equator and the opened areas in the second line are equal to each other and less than the opened areas of the first line,~~ and the opened areas are adapted to house a lubricant, wherein

the housing concave portions comprise:

a plurality of first dimples respectively arranged apart from each other so as to form a line along the longitudinal direction and form, having opening areas equal to each other, at least one tier along the latitudinal direction, opened in approximately circular forms, and having opening areas approximately equal to each other; and

a plurality of second dimples including a plurality of dimples respectively arranged apart from each other along the latitudinal direction at positions of a side opposite the opening with respect to the at least one tier of these first dimples, opened in approximately circular forms, and

having opening areas approximately equal to each other and a plurality of dimples respectively arranged apart from each other along the latitudinal direction at positions of a side of the opening with respect to the tier of the first dimples, opened in approximately circular forms, and having opening areas larger than those of the first dimples and approximately equal to each other.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended):

The bearing seat as set forth in Claim 1 wherein,

the ball portion, rotatably held in the bearing seat, has a stud portion provided in a protruding condition from the ball portion which is adapted to be inserted through the opening in the socket.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended):

The bearing seat as set forth in Claim 5 wherein,

the ball portion, rotatably held in ~~this~~ the bearing seat, has a stud portion provided in a protruding condition from the ball portion which is adapted to be inserted through the opening ~~portion~~.